

Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY:TH

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.

S/S-O: A.OTTO

S:RAHERNE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 100376 TOSEC 110091

NODIS

FROM ATHERTON FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US, SY, JO

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: LEBANON (S/S NO.7608657)

1. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL AT THIS STAGE TO GIVE ASAD AND HUSSEIN A VERY BRIEF ACCOUNT OF DEAN BROWN'S LATEST ROUND OF TALKS. HIS MEETING WITH YOU AND THE SUBSEQUENT COMMENTS TO THE PRESS WILL DRAW PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO DEAN'S ACTIVITIES. IN YOUR LAST MESSAGE TO ASAD YOU TOLD HIM THAT DEAN HAD JUST BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SEE THE MARONITE LEADERSHIP AND JUMBLATT AGAIN. I THINK WE COULD SEND THE SAME POINTS TO MURPHY AND PICKERING TO CONVEY TO ASAD AND HUSSEIN. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FOR YOUR APPROVAL DOES THIS.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

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TO: AMMAN IMMEDIATE, DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO: BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

SECRET

SECRET

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FOR AMBASSADORS FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LE, US, SY, JO
SUBJECT: LEBANON

PLEASE CONVEY TO ASAD AND HUSSEIN RESPECTIVELY THE FOLLOWING POINTS CONCERNING AMBASSADOR BROWN'S LATEST ROUND OF TALKS IN LEBANON.

BEFORE LEAVING BEIRUT FOR A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY IN LONDON AND A BRIEF CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON (AFTER WHICH HE WILL RETURN TO BEIRUT FOR A SHORT PERIOD), AMBASSADOR BROWN SAW FRANGIE, CHAMOUN AND JUMBLATT.

HE AT FIRST FOUND FRANGIE ADAMANT THAT THE SECURITY CONDITIONS WERE NOT ADEQUATE TO ENABLE HIM TO SIGN THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. HE CLAIMED THAT THE AMENDMENT WAS IN PART BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION OF BETTER INTERNAL SECURITY. BROWN ARGUED THAT THE SECURITY SITUATION COULD BE EXPECTED TO IMPROVE ONLY IF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS MOVED FORWARD PROMPTLY, AND THAT CONTINUED DELAY WOULD MAKE IT ONLY WORSE. FRANGIE ULTIMATELY AGREED TO SIGN THE AMENDMENT, SAYING THAT HE WOULD DO SO THE FOLLOWING DAY SINCE APRIL 23 WAS A HOLIDAY. (FRANGIE HAS IN FACT SINCE SIGNED THE AMENDMENT.) FRANGIE, HOWEVER, MAINTAINED TO AMBASSADOR BROWN THAT HE WOULD NOT RESIGN AFTER THE ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT UNLESS THE SECURITY CONDITIONS THEN PREVAILING WERE ADEQUATE.

CHAMOUN ENTERED THE CONVERSATION TOWARD THE END (GEMAYEL WAS NOT AVAILABLE THAT DAY) AND TOOK HIS FAMILIAR STANCE IN FAVOR OF A SEPARATE CHRISTIAN STATE. BROWN ARGUED STRONGLY THE FUTILITY AND DANGER OF SUCH AN OUTCOME, UPON WHICH CHAMOUN AGREED THAT HE WOULD HOLD OFF A FEW YEARS TO GIVE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT A CHANCE.

AMBASSADOR BROWN HAD SEEN JUMBLATT THE PREVIOUS EVENING. JUMBLATT IMPLIED IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION THAT HE WOULD NOT OPPOSE WHAT HAD BEEN WORKED OUT BETWEEN SYRIA AND ARAFAT, THOUGH HE DID NOT CONSIDER IT IDEAL. HE AGAIN REITERATED HIS OPPOSITION TO A SYRIAN MILITARY
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INTERVENTION. AMBASSADOR BROWN REMINDED JUMBLATT OF PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS IN WHICH HE, BROWN, HAD SPOKEN OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE POLITICAL ROLE SYRIA WAS PLAYING IN LEBANON. IT WAS NOW VITAL FOR THE LEBANESE FACTIONS TO COLLABORATE IN SOLVING THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, AND THIS REQUIRED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE EXERCISE OF RESTRAINT ON EVERYONE'S PART, JUMBLATT INCLUDED. JUMBLATT AGREED, SAYING THAT THE TIME FOR DIALOG HAD ARRIVED. HE WAS

PREPARED TO MEET WITH GEMAYEL, AND THOUGHT THE MEETING
SHOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

JUMBLATT THEN EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR REESTABLISHING

SECURITY AND APPEARED OPTIMISTIC ON THIS SCORE. IF A
MILITARY COUNCIL WERE FORMED REPRESENTING THE VARIOUS
FACTIONS, HE THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PUT
TOGETHER A LARGE SEGMENT OF THE ARMY. END TEXT.

3. RECOMMENDATION: THAT YOU APPROVE THE ABOVE MESSAGE.

APPROVE.....DISAPPROVE.....

4. DRAFTED: NEA:ARDBY APPROVED: NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.
S:RAHERNE

EAGLEBURGER

SECRET

NNN

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